



RTCA in New Hampshire

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in New Hampshire offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in New Hampshire will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Brookline Accessible Launch and Rail Trail** – The project goal is to create an accessible park with a trail & canoe launch along the Nissitissit River. This park will connect it to an existing rail corridor which will also be conserved and improved. (Location: Brookline, New Hampshire)
- **New Hampshire Trail Finder** – The project goal is to develop the New Hampshire Trail Finder. This tool will expand a successful collaborative digital trail map to include New Hampshire. The project will connect people to conserved lands, making the lands more accessible, and it will increase the public's access to healthy outdoor recreational opportunities. (Location: New Hampshire - Statewide)
- **Northern Forest Canoe Trail - Long Range Management Plan** – The project goal is to develop a plan that incorporates sustainable management of users, the use of low impact structures, and can shift to accommodate changes in trail use patterns. Another goal is to obtain endorsement from the landowners across all 740 miles of the trail. (Location: Fort Kent, Maine to Old Forge, New York)
- **Student Conservation Association, New Hampshire AmeriCorps, Manchester Conservation Leadership Corps** – The project goal is to engage local high school students in hands-on conservation and education experiences. Student Conservation Association offers environmental education; community based service learning; and hands-on leadership to the students. (Location: Manchester, New Hampshire)

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in New Hampshire contact:

Lelia Mellen
lelia_mellen@nps.gov
(802) 457-3405



Partners working along the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.
Photo: Northern Forest Canoe Trail

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